

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 WELLIN 01624 030133Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /037 W

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3133

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

CINCPAC

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 1624

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NZ

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND BY-ELECTION RESULTS

REF: WELLINGTON 1126 (NOTAL)

1. TO THE SURPRISE OF NO ONE, NATIONAL CANDIDATE JOHN FALLOON HANDILY DEFEATED HIS LABOUR OPPONENT IN PAHIATUA BY-ELECTION CONTESTED APRIL 30. SEAT HAD BEEN HELD FOR THIRTY-FOUR YEARS BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER HOLYOAKE AND ONLY QUESTION WAS MARGIN OF NATIONAL'S VICTORY. IN THE EVENT, NATIONAL HELD ITS GROUND AGAINST LABOUR IN COMPARISON WITH SIR KEITH'S RECORD-SETTING VICTORY OF 1975. FALLOON GARNERED AT LEAST 8779 VOTES (SPECIAL VOTES STILL TO BE COUNTED) AND 62.6 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL COMPARED TO SIR KEITH'S 1975 TOTALS OF 9426 VOTES AND 64.1 PERCENT. LABOUR'S CANDIDATE PICKED UP 4020 VOTES (COMPARED WITH 3221 IN 1975) BUT LARGELY AT EXPENSE OF MINOR PARTY CANDIDATES.

2. COMMENT: NATIONAL IS ELATED THAT ITS NOVICE CANDIDATE WAS ABLE TO HOLD NEARLY ALL OF SIR KEITH'S SIZABLE
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1975 MAJORITY. LABOUR, WHILE IMPROVING ITS RATINGS, DID SO LARGELY BECAUSE OF VERY POOR SHOWING BY TWO MINOR PARTY CANDIDATES. BY-ELECTION RESULTS THUSLY PROVE NOTHING NOR DO THEY PRESAGE ANY SIGNIFICANT TREND. SIMPLE CONCLUSION IS THAT A SEAT NORMALLY SOLID FOR NATIONAL IS STILL SOLID, AND THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT RECORD IS SUFFICIENTLY STRONG TO HOLD ON TO ITS WON PARTY

FAITHFUL. IF THE GOVERNMENT IS TO STAND OR FALL ON
THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ECONOMY, AS MOST PEOPLE PREDICT
WILL BE THE CASE IN 1978, IT IS UNLIKELY TO EVER BE THE
CASE IN STOLID, CONSERVATIVE PAHIATUA.
KILLGORE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Sent Date: 02-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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